

The Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities
Monthly Meeting
May 16, 2018

Welcome and Introductions

Start: 11:00 a.m.

Speaker: Speaker had to cancel

Report of the Executive Committee

- Continued to discuss Goals and suggestions for the 2018 Luncheon including:
 - Venue selection for the awards luncheon narrowed down to Valley Mansion.
 - Finalizing the scope of work to bid out for an event planner to coordinate the planning of the awards luncheon

Report of the Full Body

- **General Discussion:**
 - Some members participated in this month's Every Voice Counts Transportation Academy + Connectworking Event at Impact Hub. Engaged in workshops and conversations about how local transportation should be planned, funded, designed, built and maintained.
 - Participants were able to identify ways to work with transportation agencies to improve transportation for disabled citizens and gained an understanding of how to be better engaged in the decision-making process.
 - For the second year in a row, Governor Hogan has funded the Autism Waiver to receive an additional 100 slots; the Waiver is now able to serve 1200 children with Autism and their families in the community.
 - The 2018 Community Resource Guide is complete and ready for distribution by the Department of Aging. Resource Guides were distributed to each member in attendance. Members are encouraged to continue identifying points of distribution for the Resource Guides throughout Baltimore County.
 - The MSDE recently held Autism Waiver Spring Trainings to support and enhance services from providers and service coordinators to benefit the children and families served through the Waiver.
 - The Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services is releasing annual funding to support statewide initiatives aligned with the implementation of the strategic plan in each imperative: Early Childhood; Access, Equity, and Progress; and Secondary Transition.
 - Review of Exec. Committee discussion about the 2018 Awards Luncheon planning.
 - Michael Spencer is now the new director of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. Mr. Spencer has a background as a social worker in developmental pediatrics. He worked for several years in Texas' program for children with special health care needs, and for the federal Health Resources & Services Administration as part of the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Program.

Work Group Reports:

- **Education:**
 - PreETS update: The new brochure is getting ready for printing, will be ready by this summer for use at the start of the school year.
 - DORS updates – Chris House is no longer the PreETS counselor. He is now a transition counselor. All PreETS cases will be spread out among all the transition counselors. All 9th and 10th graders will be assigned to regular counselors. DORS has kicked off the summer youth employment program and has increased slots from 25 to 55. The League and Humanim are partners. They want help in spreading word about this 5 week paid work program for any student with a disability age 15 – 21.

- We discussed the Board of Education's search for new superintendent. We can write a letter to the board suggesting qualities we expect to see in a superintendent, and that we expect to be able to meet with the candidate.
- Sharon suggested a PreETS fair in the fall - late October. Faye said it could be a replicable event. In addition to the fair in Oct, there could be more offerings throughout the school year. Suppose we did it in schools – targeted schools in clusters – two or three events in fall, two or three in spring? Sharon will talk to Joyce Serio/Mary Manzoni/Mary Scott. Teachers and Transition Facilitators have to buy in to support it and encourage parent attendance.
- **Housing:**
 - Andrea Van Arsdale, Director, Department of Planning suggested that the document titled, “Welcoming Residents with Disabilities a Sensitivity and Awareness Guide for Property Managers and Landlords”, which was prepared by the CoD in the year 2000, needs to be revised and updated if necessary so that the Department of Planning can begin to publish and distribute a current version to property owners and landlords. The Housing Workgroup will review it and any other older documents on the Department of Planning's website pertaining to disability housing and disability etiquette that may need updating. After a brief review by our workgroup this document definitely needs to be updated and perhaps styled better. The document was sent to Don Brand, the County's ADA Coordinator, for review but he advised that there were no outstanding ADA issues that he felt needed addressed or updated, so the Housing Workgroup will take care of the pending update and submit it back to the Department of Planning for an updated styling and republishing.
 - The workgroup is also reviewing the Fair Housing portion of the ConPlan to determine if comments need to be submitted prior to the Department of Planning's submittal of a final version to HUD.

Announcements:

- Sue Page, Director of DORS, will retire on June 29, 2018. Scott Dennis, will be the Interim
- July 30, 2018, Anniversary of the American with Disabilities Act. Reception at the Lowe House Office building in Annapolis.

Every Voice Counts Transportation Academy + Connectworking Event, Impact Hub

Adjournment: 2:00 pm